

Although we did not serve together, I consider that it was a privilege to be able to work with him on many of the issues he championed as only he could—from the United Negro College Fund, to his work on telecommunications advances or on relations with the foreign governments he represented. Whenever he called we responded because he was always there to support us when needed. We never even had to ask.

We will miss exuberant presence and his booming raspy voice, but not just the sound. What the CBC, I, our Nation and the world will truly miss is the strong unrelenting voice that he was for a better country and world and for opportunity, equality and justice for all. We have lost a great public servant.

To his son Justin who was always with him, his wife Andrea and the other children, his church family and the people of Philadelphia who loved him dearly on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the Virgin Islands I extend my condolences. We are a better place that he lived. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE E.
ROBINSON, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young man, Mr. Willie E. Robinson, Jr. (affectionately known as J.R.)

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Robinson, Sr. and Vickie Robinson on February 3, 1988, J.R. was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, he was an outstanding young man who was deeply involved in his community and church home. He regularly attended Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church and was active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.

J.R. was not only a well-mannered young man, but also exceptionally bright. His academic ambitions were accomplished and exceeded during his matriculation at Clinton High School, where he graduated in May 2006. He furthered his education at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, ultimately receiving his B.A. in Administration of Justice and a M.S. in Economic Development. During his time at USM, he was well known among his peers, faculty and administrators. He became Student Government Association President and also served as president of the Mississippi Student Government Board of President's Council. While serving on the council, he was instrumental in implementing a number of policies geared towards assisting the student body with their matriculation at USM, including reducing the cost of textbooks through a consorted effort with textbook manufacturers and USM campus officials.

While obtaining his Master's degree, J.R. served as a graduate assistant for the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship. His commitment to the USM campus earned him induction into the Centennial Student Hall of Fame.

In addition to his valuable contributions to USM, J.R.'s passion for helping others

reaches far into the surrounding Hattiesburg community. He serves as Guide Right Director, which allows him to mentor over 20 young men. Many in the area attribute the economic growth of the area to J.R. because of his skillfulness in helping to coordinate the placement of a General Dynamics facility, which brought 250 jobs to the community. He also was instrumental in negotiations for fiscal expansion of an existing company in Hattiesburg, leading to the retention of 120 jobs and the addition to 10 within that company. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he was named "2012 Up and Coming Black Professional" in the Greater Hattiesburg area.

Currently, J.R. serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Young Professionals, to which he was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant. He is also employed as the Business Development Director with Area Development Partnership in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and continues to dedicate time to help those in need in his growing community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Willie E. Robinson, Jr. for his remarkable contributions as a young adult to the Greater Hattiesburg area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 305 on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1341, the Financial Competitive Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCIS
RESTIVO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrated its liberty and independence last week, a champion of liberty has passed away in our home community of Toledo, Ohio. Judge Francis "Buddy" Restivo passed from this life at the age of 91 on July 2, 2013. We extend deepest sympathy, heartfelt prayers, and gratitude from our community to his family for sharing him with us these many years. Truly, he was a generous, kind, and wise "buddy" to all who knew him. His gleeful presence never failed to inspire anyone who met him. His smile was infectious, his humor ever-flowing.

Judge Restivo came from humble beginnings yet graduated from Toledo's Central Catholic High School and the University of Toledo, earning his law degree. The economic circumstances from which he arose in his early years were not easy and then he served during World War II, where he was a member of the Air Force 136th Radio Intelligence Squadron. He married his wife, Jane, with whom he celebrated 70 years of marriage. Together they built a strong family and raised four children.

Buddy Restivo dedicated his life to public service and to our community. He was an assistant Ohio attorney general and assistant Lucas County prosecutor. He served on Toledo City Council in 1957 to 1960, and then served as solicitor for Sylvania, Walbridge, and Northwood. In 1971 Ohio Governor John Gilligan appointed him to the Toledo municipal court. He was elected later that year, and re-elected to six-year terms in 1973 and 1979. In 1980, he was elected to a vacancy on Lucas County Common Pleas Court and re-elected in 1982. He retired in 1986 and worked until 2000 as a visiting judge and as a hearing officer for mental health commitment cases for Lucas County Probate Court.

Judge Restivo was a fair and compassionate judge with a keen understanding of both people and the law. Lucas County Probate Court Jack Puffenberger said of Judge Restivo, he "was considerate of everyone in his courtroom. He was an excellent judge. He had good legal knowledge and he knew people and he just knew how to be fair. He was a great mentor . . ." Toledo lawyer Jerome Phillips perhaps expressed it best when he said, "I would classify him as a people's judge. He had a wonderful understanding of people and how to try to deal with the problems they had."

After retirement, though he kept in touch with the lives of colleagues and the law, his focused turned to fishing, family, and University of Toledo basketball. His son explained, "He went on numerous fishing trips with family members. He was a big UT Rockets fan, especially basketball. He had season tickets probably 40 years."

If the measure of a man can be counted by the lives he touched, then Judge Restivo was a great man indeed. He has shared his love of life, good heart, and generous spirit as husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather for his wonderful family, as well as our community and country. He shall be missed by all who knew the pleasure of his company. How fortunate each of us is to have known him, been blessed by his happy spirit, love of life, respect for the "common man," and his even-handed dispensing of the law. His good measure lifted us all. May his family and friends draw strength and comfort from his example of living life to its fullest as he helped countless others along life's way. His life made us all better as people and as a community.

HONORING MS. KAVONYA WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a student making a difference in her school West Tallahatchie High School, Ms. KaVonya Walker.

The difference KaVonya is making in her school comes in the form of art. Her home town is Webb, MS. It's a small community of about five hundred citizens. Like many other small rural towns, it too has its challenges to meet the needs of its citizens in more ways than one. The one I am speaking of is recreational which is why she turned to art when it comes to KaVonya making a difference. Art